

From: Don Atkinson
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I believe the settlement is flawed. I don't have the time or fortitude to wade through the entire body of documents related to this case, but in order for the settlement to be meaningful and enforceable, Microsoft must be obligated to fully document all file formats and programming interfaces required to integrate products with any and all present and future versions of all of their software.

I develop software professionally. I know how difficult it is to coordinate with cooperating team members on complicated products. Anything short of full disclosure on Microsoft's part will allow them to maintain the fruits of their anti-competitive practices through delay and obfuscation tactics.

Philosophically, I'm a Libertarian, and question whether this should be in court at all. I am not an anti-Microsoft zealot, but over the past few years, I have become fed up with the restrictions that Microsoft places on the competitive environment, and if we are going to pretend to enforce a competitive market place through legislation and court rulings, let's get to the point.

An anecdote:

Our company recently had a number of laptops stolen. When placing an order with Dell to replace the machines, we made our decision on which model to purchase based on Dell's refusal to ship certain models without a specific Windows OS version. Some of our users are developers who work under Linux and have no need for a Windows operating system at all.

Our business is wasting time and energy dealing with restrictions enforced by Microsoft and its weight in the industry. Since much of our development is done under government contract, this amounts to a waste of tax dollars.